

REMARKS

1. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted the claims of the subject application into the following four invention groups:

- I. Claims 1-12,
- II. Claims 13-15,
- III. Claims 16-23, and
- IV. Claims 24-27.

Applicants herein elect group IV. Including claims 24-27 for further examination in the subject application without traverse, without prejudice or disclaimer.

New Claims

Applicants herein add new claims 28-44. The new claims depend from either claim 24 or claim 27 of the elected group IV. Set of claims. The new claims are fully supported by the specification as filed.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants have made a diligent effort to fully respond to the restriction requirement presented by the Examiner. Examination of the application's elected species, entry of amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding Applicants' present response, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard G. Pike
Registration No. 46,993

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312

Phone: (412) 355-8620
Fax: (412) 355-6501